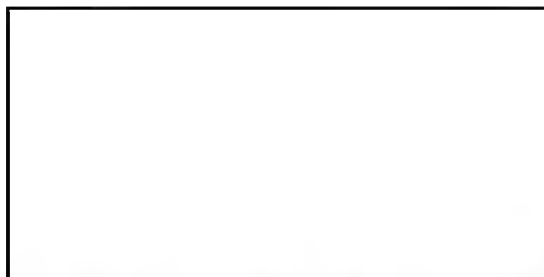


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I am very sorry to hear that you have been obliged, for reasons of health, to withdraw from the Panel of Consultants which has been meeting from time to time to review and discuss our National Intelligence Estimates.

As you know, our thought in setting up this Panel was that selected persons from the fields of private business and the professions would be in a good position to take a completely detached view of these estimates and probably point out factors that required further elaboration. It is my feeling that this procedure has been very successful and I am grateful to you, as to the other members of the Panel, for your readiness to sacrifice your time and comfort to come to these meetings whenever called.

I know of the seriousness with which you have approached this task and I know that your contribution has been much appreciated by the Office of National Estimates.

I take this opportunity to express my hope for your speedy recovery and trust that at some time in the future you will be ready again to join with us in this important work.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

WALTER B. SMITH
Director

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